



# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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EVERY TUESDAY

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## THIS BIRD IS NEWS When the Turkey Took to the Road in Hobnailed Boots

*This is the week when the whole nation is "talking turkey," when the turkey, in fact, becomes front page news. Though not seen in shops in such vast numbers as in the days of plenty before the war the bird is still, next to the pudding, the most popular item in the nation's Christmas feast.*

UNTIL little more than four hundred years ago the turkey was unknown in Britain. It was brought to Europe as a curiosity by the early Spanish explorers of the New World. When Cortes invaded Mexico he found that the natives had domesticated the birds there in large numbers.

Up to that time the Christmas dinners of Britons had featured portions of roast ox among the less well-to-do, boar's head among the wealthy, and even stuffed peacocks and nightingales among the very rich, while the swan usually occupied the place of honour at the tables of royalty.

The invader from America did not immediately capture the hearts of Britons, but its popularity as a dish, particularly at Christmas, grew rapidly, until the demand was greater than the limited British flocks could meet. The breed was saved from tem-

porary extinction in Britain by Archbishop Cranmer, who issued a decree limiting Christmas turkeys to one to each family—one of Britain's earliest rationing regulations!

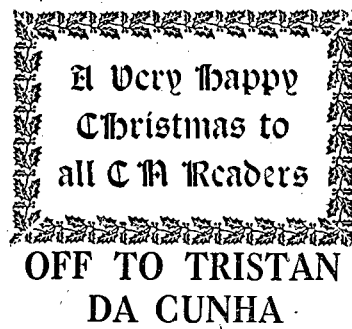
The traditional English home of the turkey has always been Norfolk. Large numbers were bred there during the eighteenth century, and in the weeks before Christmas it was a common sight to see flocks of thousands of birds being driven by road to market towns, and even to London. Geese for Christmas consumption often travelled in the same way, and two flocks, one of turkeys and the other of geese, were raced

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## By Cow's Tail to Christmas Dinner

IN the Antipodes, where Christmas falls almost at midsummer, no effort is too great to complete family gatherings, just as in our colder clime. Nothing better illustrates this happy passion than an adventure of the late Sir Richard Seddon, the New Zealand statesman.

During his youth he was far from home as a certain December 25 drew near, but he had promised to have Christmas dinner with his family. So he began the long journey, but when nearing home it was necessary to cross a river which was in high flood. Neither boat nor



NEXT week Miss Ethel Harvey, the headmistress of a Gooderstone village school, leaves the quiet countryside of West Norfolk and begins her voyage to rugged Tristan da Cunha island, in the South Atlantic, where she is to take charge of the one school. Due to sail, too, is the new chaplain of Tristan, the Revd D. I. Luard.

Mrs Luard is to go out to Tristan in a few months' time, after the birth of her child. The good wishes of CN readers will accompany these voluntary exiles to that lonely outpost of the British Empire which lies midway between Cape Town and Buenos Aires.

bridge was available, and the youth had no horse. Happily, some cattle were grazing in meadowland near the river. Young Seddon proceeded to drive the entire herd into the rapid stream. Seeing a placid-looking cow with whose friendly looks he was profoundly impressed, he urged her into the centre of the herd, seized her tail as she launched herself upon the flood, and so was towed by her without accident to the other bank.

He reached home dripping, muddy, and weary, but triumphant, in good time to enjoy his Christmas dinner.



## A Beam of Silent Sound!

THE statement by Ludwig Koch on the wireless recently that some birds emit supersonic notes, makes clear how little Man, with his limited hearing, perceives of the noises of Nature.

The robin, nightingale, and other birds emit notes that are above our hearing in frequency—around 20,000 cycles a second. We only hear the relatively low notes of around 5000 to 10,000 cycles a second. Canaries, especially, are rich in these supersonic notes. The cicada, grasshopper, and cricket also emit sounds that we cannot hear.

### The Upper Notes

Ludwig Koch, in his records of bird-song, takes great care to record the upper frequencies; although we cannot hear them there is evidence that they add appreciably to the realism of the song.

Scientists in several British laboratories are studying artificial supersonics, and among the fruits of the experiments is a method of sterilising milk by subjecting it to these high sounds. A method has been developed for producing a very high intensity beam of sound of any desired frequency up to several millions cycles a second.

The urge to take up an investigation of supersonics arose as a result of the infestation of reservoirs by seagulls. Since it was known that many birds and insects have ears sensitive to supersonic sound, it was thought that a powerful high-frequency sound with a quavering effect might drive the birds away.

### Supersonic Scarecrow

In practice this was proved to be the case. It was found that the high-pitched notes gave quite a jolt to all winged creatures within a radius of a quarter of a mile. They fluttered and squeaked, and quickly took themselves off to more peaceful parts, though the local residents heard nothing whatever!

In laboratory experiments, parrots and canaries became so terrified that they flapped around in their cages in a frenzy, feathers flying in all directions. Flies behaved differently; they became stupefied, and could be picked off the walls with the fingers.

With the apparatus installed on a fire-escape and pointing down the street, very few people

## ROYAL GREETING



King Neptune welcomed the guests when submarine crews gave a party to 300 children at Portsmouth.

noticed anything peculiar, only an occasional passer-by seeming to "sense" its presence. This was with a frequency of 16,000 cycles a second. When the frequency was raised the investigators, armed with detectors, found that there was very little observed difference in the sound intensity whether they were 100 or 1000 feet away. This was due to the reflection from buildings. When operated in open country, however, the sound tended to travel in a narrow beam, and the sound could be detected at a distance of over two miles.

## The Look-Alikes Are Ready!

So says an advertisement in a Canadian magazine, which offers to children an unbreakable doll made to look like any little boy or girl or any baby. It is necessary to send a photograph of the child or baby to be copied, and a sample of its hair. The originator of the "portrait" doll is Dewees Cochran, of Norwich, Vermont, and the price of a doll is about £7.

## CHRISTMAS PUDDING FOR 450

FIFTY pounds of raisins, sulfanas, and currants, eleven pounds of mixed peel, 14 pounds of suet, 144 fresh eggs, and 80 sixpences were among the ingredients which went into the outside Christmas pudding made at Portsmouth in the galley of our largest fleet aircraft carrier, HMS Implacable, which is shortly to become the flagship of the Home Fleet. It was made for the 450 men who are expected to be on board to dinner on Christmas Day, when the remainder of the 1300 men of the crew are on leave.

The dry ingredients of this

gigantic pudding alone weighed 200 pounds, and no ordinary basin or spoon could cope with them. They were mixed with a Carley float paddle in a boiler as big as a table top and waist high. The Commanding Officer, Captain J. F. Stevens, and the youngest member of the ship's company, 16-year-old Walter Mitchell, stirred the pudding together. Before he left the galley the captain insisted on "sinking" every sixpence in the sea of pudding by "downing" it with the Carley float paddle.

It's grand fare and a grand life in the British Navy!

**The Prince of  
Peace is Born**



## STILL THE WORLD'S HOPE

THE Assembly of the United Nations is to meet again on April 1 in New York to deal with business left over from the Paris programme. This decision to meet again in the country where it was born is perhaps the best news that emerged from a session which was full of disappointment.

The Third UN Assembly has in fact been held under the shadow of Big Power quarrels which obviously hampered agreement on many questions.

The main topics of discussions baffled the United Nations as much in 1948 as they have done in the past. The future of atomic energy control, for example, continued to be a major problem. After three weeks of discussion the UN political committee had to restrict itself to a few resolutions which will probably be without any effect until the United States and Russian viewpoints come closer together.

### Atomic Weapons

Briefly, the United States does not intend to give up its atomic weapons except under a system of control sufficiently effective to guarantee that other nations do not have, or cannot secure, such weapons. This means that the US requires a really effective method of international inspection, strong enough to assure that no weapons are being made without the knowledge of an international commission. This point of view was violently opposed by Soviet Russia, whose representative, Mr Vishinsky, demanded that all the atomic bombs should be destroyed before the question of international inspection could be discussed.

No less inconclusive, too, was the discussion on the Greek civil war in which the Western Powers accused Greece's Balkan neighbours of actively supporting the rebel General Markos. The findings of the UN Balkan Commission were attacked by the Eastern countries of Europe, which suggests that these countries are very likely to continue their aid to the Greek insurgents.

The discussion in the social, humanitarian, and cultural committee on the draft Bill on

Human Rights was marked by sharp exchanges between British and Russian representatives. Russia was reminded that she had between five and 15 millions of virtual slaves in labour camps. Russia did not deny the existence of labour camps, but asserted that people imprisoned in them worked an eight-hour day and were paid a small wage.

Little if anything was achieved in solving the thorny question of Palestine. Although actual fighting in Holy Land has practically ceased, there is still no peace between Arabs and Jews, and Jerusalem, which is precious and holy to three great religions, is still a potential battlefield.

The question of Korea is another, yet unsolved, riddle. It is true that Russia has promised to withdraw from that country by the end of the year. But it is equally true that she has set up in Northern Korea a well-armed Communist Government which threatens to overrun the southern part of the country and force it to submit to one-party rule.

### A Common Platform

This and some other problems, like that of the future of the Italian Colonies, yet unsolved, await prolonged discussion next April. Let us all hope that in New York the nations of the world, large and small, will show more reason and understanding than they have shown hitherto.

Disappointed as we are with their failures in Paris, we must never forget that the United Nations form one of the last remaining platforms where East and West meet, and where argument and counter-argument can be flashed across the table.

As long as this common platform remains, the possibility of agreement must be very much greater than if the United Nations did not exist.

## THIS BIRD IS NEWS

Continued from page 1

from Norwich to London in 1740 for a wager.

Lord Orford staked large sums on the geese, while the Duke of Queensbury favoured the turkeys. The contest aroused great interest. The geese won because they were able to pick up their own food on the roadside, while the turkeys had to be hand-fed. The geese also gained time because they could be kept continually moving, except for a few short rest periods; but the turkeys insisted on roosting in trees every night!

For these long Christmas treks both turkeys and geese were specially shod. The turkeys wore leather hobnailed "boots," specimens of which are still to be seen in old Norfolk farmsteads, while the geese were provided with "shoes" by being made to walk, first through liquid tar and then through sand.

In the farmyard the turkey—which gets its name from the call of the wild hen-bird to its young—is one of the most foolish of birds. Most farmers' families have made pets of fowls, but few turkeys ever develop sufficient "personality" to encourage friendship. On the other hand, the hen turkey has unusually strong maternal in-

stincts, and will mother her chicks for as long as four months. The turkey cock, however, is a bad father and will destroy the eggs if he can find them.

A few years ago an attempt was made to cross turkeys with fowls, and birds known as "churkeys" were produced. In appearance they are not unlike outside chickens, but have the strutting walk of the turkey.

The turkey's instinct to roost in trees makes it a likely target for thieves, and young birds in many parts of Britain are now tattooed under their wings with a registered number in order to help the police to trace them. Poultry thieves, however, do not have it all their own way, for many turkeys still follow the custom of their wild ancestors and post a "sentry" on retiring for the night. When disturbed, this bird gives the alarm.

### NELSON RELIC

A LIVERPOOL family have presented a Nelson relic to the training ship *Indefatigable*. It is a flint lock pistol designed for hand-to-hand fighting, and was specially made for Lord Nelson in 1800 by a Liverpool firm of gunsmiths.



### For the Prince

Girls of a Knightsbridge cookery-class made for Princess Elizabeth's baby son a christening cake which was decorated with these storks.

## SCHOLAR AND STATESMAN

SOUTH AFRICA has lost a great statesman in Jan Hendrik Hofmeyr. Though he was only 54 when he died the other day he had already had a brilliant career.

As a little boy he was delicate, and his mother was a widow, but Jan soon showed his mental ability and matriculated when he was only 12. Before he was 19 he had taken his B.A., B.Sc., and M.A. degrees. Then he won a Rhodes Scholarship and came to Oxford. At 25 he became Principal of what was afterwards the Witwatersrand University.

Jan was anxious to serve his country, and when he was 30 he was made Administrator of the Transvaal. In politics, however, he was not just a party man. He did not hesitate to criticise his own party and opposed all measures which he considered oppressive to the natives and the Indians in South Africa.

In 1943 he became acting Prime Minister during the absence abroad of his good friend General Smuts.

## MAKE SURE OF YOUR CN

THE size of the CN is to be increased to 12 pages weekly beginning with the issue dated January 8, 1949.

THERE is a growing demand for the CN and from January 8 newsgagents will be able to obtain extra copies. Will you please help your own newsgagent to gauge his requirements by giving him an order to reserve a copy for you each week. By doing so you will also save disappointment for yourself.

## Christmas Cricket

THE English cricketers in South Africa will spend a strenuous Christmas. The second Test Match of their tour opens at Johannesburg on Boxing Day and they will have to spend Christmas Day travelling up-country after a match at Ladysmith.

The scene of the second Test, the Wanderers' Ground at Johannesburg, is one of the loveliest and most up-to-date cricket arenas in the world, with a huge modern score-board far finer than anything in this country. Test Matches have been played there for more than fifty years, but it has never been a particularly fortunate ground for English cricketers. Of the last eight matches played there they have won only one.

## WORLD NEWS REEL

The Children's Newspaper, December 25, 1948

**IN OUR FAVOUR.** British exports to Norway during the first nine months of this year were worth about £22,175,000, whereas British imports from Norway were worth a little over £12,900,000.

At Pennington airport, U.S.A., not long ago, an aircraft took off without a pilot when a student pilot spun the propeller. It flew for two and a half hours on its own, passing over Atlantic City and Philadelphia before crashing in a field.

**TABLES TURNED.** A policeman in Massachusetts stopped a car for speeding and recognised the driver as his former teacher. "I ought to make you write, 'It pays to drive safely' 100 times," he said. "Why were you in such a hurry?" Teacher replied, "I'm late for a meeting on road safety."

An Anglo-French festival held recently at Santiago, Chile, demonstrated the music, painting, drama, and literature of England and France.

The first woman judge has been appointed in Belgium.

A film was made of the Amsterdam Assembly of the World Council of Churches. Copies can be bought by religious organisations for £12.

**HULLO HALO!** A new American telephone switches on the light when it rings during the night.

## HOME NEWS REEL

**TO HIS PEOPLE.** The King is to broadcast on Christmas Day at 3 p.m.

The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, London,—a gift from Norway—is 60 feet high and weighs two tons.

During October 86 children were killed on the roads, five fewer than the previous October. Altogether 403 people were killed, the fewest recorded for any October and 96 fewer than October last year. The injured amounted to 13,587.

In Peckham, London, recently, a lorry mounted the pavement and smashed a pram and a brick wall. The baby was found lying unhurt amid the wreckage, though the pram pillow had tyre marks across it.

**PHONE NUMBERS.** In the July-September quarter the G.P.O. connected 161,367 new telephones, and the waiting list increased by 9500 to 467,461.

The Advisory Council on Child Care has been appointed in accordance with the new Children's Act. The Chairman of the Council is Professor Alan Moncrieff, and among the members are Lady Allen of Hurtwood and Dr Muriel Barton Hall.

## YOUTH NEWS REEL

**GOOD TURNS.** The 6th Osterley Wolf Cub Pack are to give a Christmas tea and concert to Old Age Pensioners. The 2nd Edgware Scout Troop is giving a party to another Troop and Cub Pack in the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.

The Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, is flying to Australia, where he will attend the Pan-Pacific Jamboree being held near Melbourne.

**PARTY AND PRIZES.** On Saturday December 18 more than 50 St John Ambulance Cadets from many parts of the country attended a Christmas Party and

Since 1940, Canadians have sent to individuals in Britain 10,929,000 gift parcels, and between December 1945 and March 1948, more than 54,485,000 pounds of gift food in bulk.

**TO JOIN CANADA.** The agreement for the union of Newfoundland with Canada was signed in Ottawa recently. The Union will come into force on March 31, 1949, if the Canadian Parliament and the Government of Newfoundland give their approval.

An Australian-made car, the Holden, was put on the market a short time ago. It is a six-cylinder, 21.6 h.p., six-passenger sedan and costs 675 Australian pounds.

**YET AGAIN.** From Milan came reports, not long ago, of people seeing "flying saucers" travelling across the sky in a northerly direction.

An Indian officer has been appointed as Commander-in-Chief, India. He is Lieutenant-General K. M. Cariappa. He was the first Indian officer to enter the Staff College, Quetta, in 1933; the first to command a battalion; and, more recently, one of the first two Indians at the Imperial Defence College.

Not long ago the U.S. Navy's 14,000-ton destroyer tender Hamul left London with a cargo of 120,000 blankets which United Nations is sending to needy Arabs in Syria.

**COUNTING CHICKENS.** At the recent National Poultry Show at Olympia, the biggest ever, orders were placed for pullets for which the eggs have not yet been laid.

During the first six months of this year 347,000 children were immunised against diphtheria, more than in any half-year since the war ended. Before the war there was a yearly average of 2900 deaths from diphtheria; last year there were 244 deaths.

**FIRST TO BE TAPPED.** Mr R. Meyrick of Corbridge-on-Tyne has loaned to the Science Museum, South Kensington, an example of the first type of portable barometer ever sold. It was made by a clock-maker named Daniel Quare, who lived from 1649 to 1724.

Christmas trees used for religious, charitable, and civic purposes may be illuminated with fairy lights, the Ministry of Fuel and Power have announced; but not trees in shops and hotels.

**CORRECTION.** In a recent article we stated that John Wainwright wrote *Christians Awake*. He was the composer; the words were written by John Byrom for his own daughter, Dolly.

a prize-giving to winners of the Brigade's National Competitions at St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, the 12th-century home of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

Fourteen-year-old John Barne, of the 1st Lanark Company Boys' Brigade, dived into the River Clyde and brought a drowning man to the surface. John receives the B.B. Diploma for Gallant Conduct.

Dick Whittington is to be presented by the Roland House Players from January 1 to 15 to raise funds for the Roland House Scout Settlement in the East End of London.



## Pigeon Passengers

A PIGEON-FANCIER at Hersden, in Kent, found a visiting bird in his loft. It was a pigeon which had been flown from Holland to France for a race, but which had come to England instead of returning to its owner.

Now, however, the bird has been flown home, after the Kent fancier had made for it a special box, complete with water-jar, and had hung outside a bag of food bearing a notice: "Please feed and water in transit—thank you."

THE good ship Arundel Castle was 250 miles out from Cape Town when passengers on deck

witnessed a strange incident. A flock of seagulls chased a pigeon which wheeled and darted over the waves in a desperate effort to escape from its pursuers.

At length, the pigeon fell exhausted on the deck. Stewards picked it up and nursed it back to health; and the bird felt so "at home" on the boat that it travelled all the way to Southampton. The pigeon was again among the passengers when the Arundel Castle started on its return run to Cape Town where, as the pigeon was ringed and registered, the ship's captain handed it over to its owner.

## PIT'S LONG LIFE

BRITAIN'S most northerly coalmine, the Brora Colliery in Sutherland, is to close, the Ministry of Fuel announces, because it has been running at a loss. The pit lies north of the Ochil Hills, which form the northern edge of our most northerly coalfield, the Fife and Clackmannan coalfield. It is a very old mine, having been opened as long ago as 1578. Now, after 370 years of service, it is to close.

## Goodbye to Whooping Cough?

THE Medical Research Council and the Ministry of Health are conducting a great trial in Manchester with a new British whooping-cough vaccine. At various centres during the next six months 6000 children between the ages of six and 18 months are to be treated. Three injections are given, and if the results are satisfactory this new vaccine will be used on a national scale.

## INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT

NOT long ago a small Norwegian steamer foundered in the North Sea and the crew took to two boats. One was picked up by a British steamer, but the other was missing.

An RAF Lincoln plane set out to search for it and spotted its red sail, which is an international distress signal. The plane dropped a smoke float to mark its position, but the shivering shipwrecked sailors hauled it into their little boat, presumably to try to warm themselves.

Dusk was now falling and the airmen were puzzled as to how they could help the seamen. Then they saw a French trawler, and by flying backwards and forwards and firing Verey signals they were able to make the French sailors understand what was wanted. The trawler sailed in the direction shown by the plane and picked up the seamen.

## BIG BUSINESS

A YEAR ago in the village school playground at Stanhoe, in Norfolk, twelve-year-old Brian Ayres went into business as a rabbit breeder. His shareholders were fifteen boys and girls who each contributed a shilling for the purchase of a pair of rabbits.

The other day Brian was able to take 40 fine rabbits to Burnham market and afterwards declare a dividend of 1000 per cent.

"And," said Brian, "I hope to do even better next year."

## The End of Sailing Lifeboats

THE last of the seagoing sail and rowing lifeboats has ended her career. She is the William Cantrell Ashley, and for 41 years she bravely served at Newquay on the Cardiganshire coast. The one rowing lifeboat left is used only within the harbour at Whitby.

In the last century the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's boats used sail when possible, but always used oars to come alongside a wreck—a task that needed tough and skilful oarsmen. Now the whole lifeboat fleet is driven by engine power.

The place of the old William Cantrell Ashley at Newquay is being taken by a new lifeboat, the St Albans, weighing 8½ tons, with two 18 h.p. engines and a speed of just over 7 knots.

## IN THE REALM OF SANTA CLAUS

THE astonishing adventures of a little boy and girl who didn't believe in Santa Claus and in hanging up their stockings, are told in *The Land of the Christmas Stocking*, by Mabel Buchanan (Latimer House, 7s 6d). When Santa Claus heard of these unbelieving children he caused them to be whisked away to a magical land of nursery rhyme people.

It is the original story of the play of the same name by Captain Henry D. G. Foord, R.N., and Mabel Buchanan, for which Mabel Buchanan wrote the music. This play, which has delighted young people in previous years, is to be performed again this year at the Duke of York's Theatre, London.



## Weymouth Waders "Weigh" the Anchor

This instrument is used at Weymouth to measure the force required to move new types of Navy anchors. In the background an engineer with a "walkie-talkie" keeps in touch with the driver of a lorry attached to the hawser through a pulley.

## Frogmen Help Fishermen

THE CN has already referred to the way in which science is aiding the fishermen, especially with the electrical echo sounder. But many questions remain unanswered, and experiments have been made off Great Yarmouth recently to secure more knowledge by the use of frogmen—specially-trained and equipped men who were extensively used during the war to deal with underwater obstacles.

It is thought that frogmen will be useful in finding the size of shoals of fish, and learning the way in which a shoal behaves when the leaders run into a net. It is known that, as a rule, only a small part of a shoal is caught, and no doubt frogmen will be able to learn the reason.

So successful have been preliminary experiments that they are to be extended.

## Good Neighbourhood!

A GREAT effort to create a town providing for the varied social needs of all its dwellers is to be made next year at Derby, where, on the Mackworth Estate, a centre is to be built to house 10,000 people.

Mackworth is one of the remaining areas near the centre of Derby suitable for development, and an attempt will be made there to meet the needs of the workers, and the young and old alike.

Eighty acres are to be set aside for schools and playing fields. For the aged and those who cannot look after themselves, 316 flats and 180 houses are to be built. Lovely Markeaton Park is quite near, but as it is across a main road a crossing is to be constructed underground.

All that forethought and consideration can provide will be incorporated into Mackworth, so that all kinds and all ages of people can enjoy life together, good neighbours all.

## An Awesome Warning to Greedy Boys!

A SUDDEN shriek, then muffled groans, The wind around the housetop moans. Small shivering Henry gives a start, And tries to still his beating heart. A piercing laugh, a clanking chain, Poor Henry cowers down in vain; He tells himself he's safe in bed, But awful stories fill his head.

## HANDS ACROSS THE CHANNEL

THE French town of Falaise is to have its first playing-field with the help of the British town of Hove. The Treasury has just granted permission for Hove to send the £300 which has been collected to establish the field. Troops went to Falaise from Hove, after D-Day, and the French town was "adopted" by the Sussex town two years ago.

## A Railway Without an Engine

THE famous Cheshire Lines Railway, operating over areas in the north-west of England, this month merges its identity in the London Midland Region of British Railways.

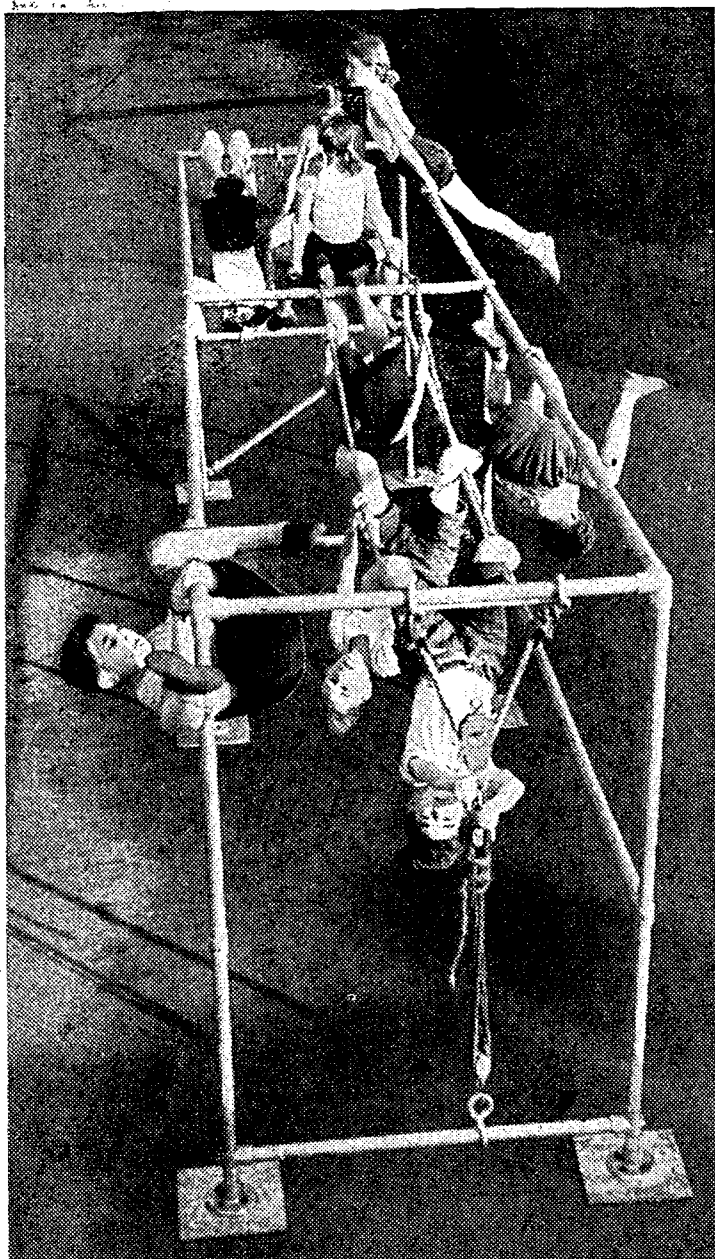
One of the last undertakings to remain independent, it was opened in 1868 and had working associations with the Manchester, Sheffield, and Liverpool, the Great Northern, the Great Central, and the Midland railways. An interesting feature has been that although the Cheshire Lines has always maintained its own track and rolling stock, it has never possessed a single locomotive of its own.

## He Keeps on Walking

INTO Potchefstroom, Transvaal, the other day, walked Captain Butler. He had walked from Cape Town, a thousand miles away, and was on his way to Johannesburg.

Captain Butler, who was born in Winnipeg, Canada, 65 years ago, decided, after serving in the First World War, to walk round the world. He claims to have worn out 189 pairs of boots and shoes in his travels, and when in Potchefstroom bought his 190th pair!

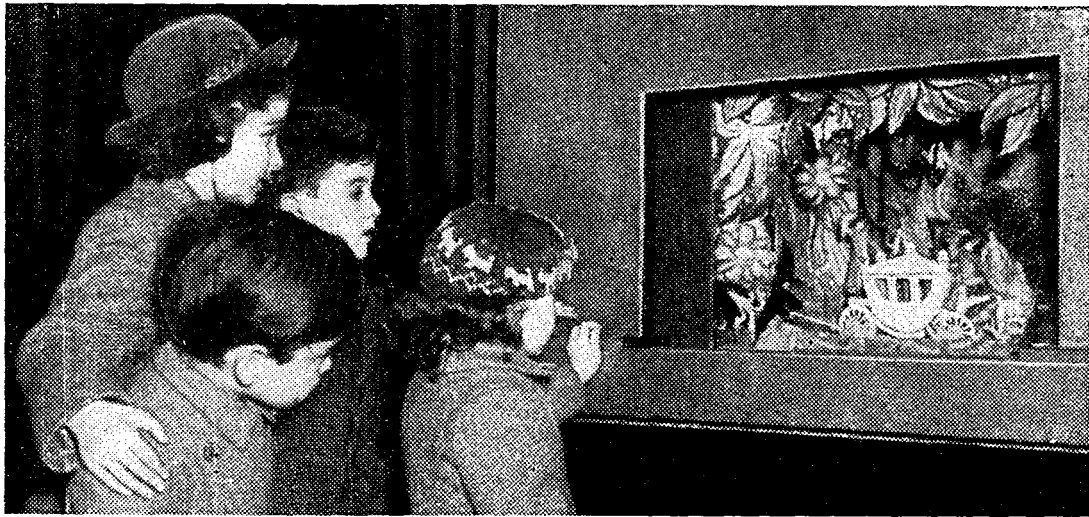
He carries a small film projector and gives shows in various places he passes through, in order to earn his keep.



## Loosening Up

Children of the Newfoundland Road Junior Mixed school, Bristol, have been nominated for the 1949 Lingiad, described recently in the CN. Here we see some of them on a portable Brigitt, the first apparatus of its kind to be used in Britain.





### Model Cinderella

Young Christmas shoppers in a London store stop to watch one of the performances of a puppet pantomime.

## THE SACRED NAME

OF all times in the year this is the one in which the name of Jesus is most frequently on the lips and in the thoughts of Christian people. It is now the most hallowed of all names; but when Jesus was born the name was one in very general use among the Jews.

Old Jewish forms in which the name Jesus occurs are Joshua, Jehoshua, Jeshua, and Jesju. A son of Saul is said to have borne the name, and the New Testament tells of "Jesus which is called Justus." Jesus is the Greek form in which this name of names has been transmitted to us. In chapter 45 of the Acts of the Apostles the name of Jesus is used as an alternative to Joshua, and a similar thing occurs in the eighth verse of chapter four of the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Perplexity must at times have been acute, so many were the men who were named Jesus. Josephus, the Jewish historian, who was born in AD 37, introduces into his Antiquities of the Jews a dozen men who bore the name, such as Jesus the deposed high priest, Jesus the son of Phabet, Jesus the son of Sapphias, and Jesus son of Gamaliel, who became high priest. Strange, indeed, it seems to find the name Jesus occurring so often.

## Clothes That Grow Up With You

PARENTS may not have to worry so much in future about young people growing out of their clothes, for a London firm has designed garments which expand as a child grows.

This does not mean that girls will be leaving school in the dresses they wore in the prep; the new dresses are designed to allow of four years' growth of the persons inside them.

The girl's expanding dress is made of hard-wearing, non-fading material. The skirt has a double tuck which can be let down, and side bows at the waist which let out as the girl grows. The difficulty of sleeves that become too small is obviated by having large frill sleeves with deep armholes.

So far girls' clothes only have been made on these lines, but a director of the clothing firm is working on designs for boys' expanding clothes, too.

## Science v Strange Beliefs

THE Royal Society, oldest of all scientific bodies, is to seek a fresh home. Burlington House, Piccadilly, has been its headquarters since 1857, but there is to be a Science Centre as a home for various learned associations, and it is hoped that the Royal Society will be the head and centre of the establishment.

In the 286 years of its existence the Royal Society has had various homes—one in Oxford University and four in London. Its members have included many of the greatest scientists of the world, Sir Isaac Newton, Sir Christopher Wren, and Lord Lister among them; and FRS is still the proudest distinction of a man of science.

The Royal Society came into existence in time to dispel the last follies and illusions of the Dark Ages. Accepting no statement without test and proof, it engaged in investigations and experiments, the records of which form a history of science for the last three centuries.

No fiction could read more amusingly than some of its inquiries and experiments. These great men set themselves to find out whether barnacles grew on trees and have little geese

secreted in their shells; whether the oysters of Jamaica really weigh three cwt; whether new diamonds grow where old ones have been dug out; whether fish, frogs, and corn are rained from the sky; and whether swallows come out alive in spring after having been frozen hard under water throughout the winter.

Other experiments by members of the Society concerned the reported change of gold into silver and the making of insects from cheese and wine, and the alleged enchantment of spiders encircled by Irish earth and unicorn's horn. These and a hundred other recorded inquiries tell of the strange beliefs of our ancestors, and how the Royal Society's investigations banished error and falsehood by simply demonstrating the truth.

When the Royal Society eventually quits Burlington House, where it now has the Royal Academy of Arts on one side of the building, and has in the fellow building the British Association and other famous scientific bodies as neighbours, it will take with it a record of brilliant achievement such as no other body in the world can even faintly rival.

## GOING TO THE UNIVERSITY

MORE scholarships and more financial help to enable promising young people to study at a university are proposed to the Minister of Education.

These proposals are in a recent Report by a Working Party on University Awards (Stationery Office, 9d).

Today there are numbers of young people who are well fitted for a university education but who cannot go to a university because of the expense.

The Report suggests that

## WORKERS' PARADE



A postman with a load of Christmas mail on a Cotswolds footpath.

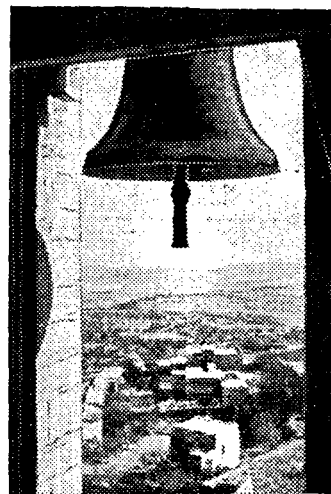
## The Editor's Table

### THE BEST NEWS OF ALL

CHRISTMAS is the festival of children. It sprang from the birth of a baby son to a poor family in an obscure corner of south-west Asia two thousand years ago. In that birth centuries of hope and expectation were realised; round that cradle circled the dreams and visions of ages past and yet to come.

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called wonderful, counsellor, mighty God, everlasting Father, prince of peace.*

So the prophet announced the birth of the boy centuries before



The Bell of Bethlehem

it happened, and the world still treasures the same mystery centuries later.

As the years have passed since the baby lay in the manger the precious associations of childhood with Christmas have been strengthened. Christmas has invaded all lands and is celebrated in all languages. Its universal sway is acknowledged even by those to whom the Christian religion is of little account. The child born of Mary makes the conquest of all hearts, lays His finger of love and tenderness everywhere.

In wishing one another a Happy Christmas we salute the childlike virtues of simplicity, friendliness, and generosity. Upon these Christian virtues all that is best in our lives is founded.

Unto us a Child! The gladdest news which can come to any family rings out again this Christmas to all the human race. Once more it comes to illumine all our lives and to renew our faith in the final triumph of the forces which draw their inspiration from the Bethlehem manger, the powers which stand for righteousness and peace.

CHRISTMAS restores to its pre-eminent place the authority of love which is the heart of the good tidings from God to man.

## We Are Not the Only Ones

SPEAKING about egg production not long ago Dr Edith Summerskill, M.P., got a bit tied up when dealing with astronomical quantities of eggs. She apologised and said: "When it comes to talking about 3,000,000,000 I am afraid I cannot rise to those great heights. I am only one of those very poor people, a Parliamentary Secretary."

Schoolboys and girls will sympathise with her and hope that maths teachers will duly note that even clever people sometimes find that noughts are naughty things and take a lot of handling. They have a nasty habit of playing truant, or else sticking themselves in where they are not wanted; either way they wreck the sum.

## Good News for Necks

SCHOOLBOYS have set an example to the rest of the community everywhere in putting up with the soap shortage without a murmur of protest. And at last they are to have their fortitude rewarded, for the joyful announcement of an increased soap ration has been made.

Peter Puck says he does not see anything in this news to get in a lather about. But we can ignore him; most boys will surely be glad not to have to go about with "tide-marks" of that peculiar blend of pink and grey known to many people as "schoolboy-neck shade."

## The Happy Night

AND well our Christian sires of old  
Loved when the year its course  
had rolled,  
And brought blithe Christmas  
back again,  
With all his hospitable train.  
All hailed, with uncontrolled  
delight, [night,  
And general voice, the happy  
That to the cottage, as the crown,  
Brought tidings of salvation  
down. Sir Walter Scott

## Under the E

MORE Men for Food Boards, says a headline. Hope there will be enough food to go round.

GARDENERS should do their best to have an even lawn. Otherwise it looks odd.

WHAT is the finest Christmas present for a girl? someone asks. A thread of silk.

THE longest ladder in England was sold at Long Ashton for £10. Should have reached a higher price.



REINDEER are to be taken from Sweden to Scotland. They will be handier for Father Christmas.



## THINGS SAID

ERE were four kinds of men who opened up unexplored territory—hunter, trader, gold-er, and missionary; but the in the field was the mis-ary.

*The Governor of Southern Rhodesia*

E people still look on farm- ing as one of our backward stries, but British agricul- research can match anything anywhere in the world.

*Herbert Morrison, M.P.*

heroes that are wanted at the present time. We want es in the family, heroes in the ols, heroes in the workshop, es in the factory.

*Cardinal Griffin*

dress shirt I am wearing to- night is seventeen years older I am.

*President of the Board of Trade*

## TAKE GOOD CARE ON CHRISTMAS EVE

SE last few days before Christmas are a time when e people are in a great hurry nish their Christmas shop- , and often they are in such rry that they are more care- than usual in crossing the ts.

st Christmas Eve there were tal accidents—46 homes in h there was avoidable trag- at the season when all should nited and merry. The Min- of Transport calls for greater ion by all road users during "peak" period for Christ- shopping.

is better to miss a purchase vo than to miss everything.

## THIS BLESSED SEASON

CHRISTMAS is holy time, a duty in Christians for the re- brance of Christ, and cus- e among friends, for the ntenance of good fellowship; rief, I thus conclude of it; old it as a memory of the ven's love and the world's e, the myth of the honest, the meeting of the friendly.

*Nicholas Breton*

## or's Table

ER PUCK  
ANTS TO  
KNOW

sea cooks  
Christmas  
dings in a  
al basin



LITTLE boy thinks Father Christmas's expenses must be high. Although he comes down chimney they go up.

American has praised a London busman for his excellent driving r trying conditions. Shows what s of trying.

RENTS should see that a child does the work that he wants to Suppose he wants to play?

## WE'VE DONE IT!

THE people of this country are entitled to give themselves a pat on the back, for, not long ago, Mr Wilson, President of the Board of Trade, was able to report: "We can say that the nation has achieved the export target set for the end of 1948."

The target was for Britain, by the end of 1948, to export 150 per cent, or half as much again as was exported in 1938—an ambitious target indeed.

Our country today is like the train in the story which, as it struggled up the incline puffed, "I think I can . . . I . . . think . . . I . . . can . . ." and when it had passed the peak puffed joyfully, "I thought I could, I thought I could."

We have done what we set out to do for this year. But another year lies ahead, so we must go forward inspired by our success and resolved to do even better in 1949.

## Young People In Trouble

THE problem of the very small minority of young people who get into trouble with the law, juvenile delinquency as it is called, is unhappily much in the news just now. The core of the problem seems to be lack of moral instruction in some homes and schools.

Among recent writers to The Times on this subject was Mr C. A. Joyce, Headmaster of the Cotswold School, who illustrated the moral outlook of some young people by the story of a boy, asked by his housemaster, "Don't you know what good, honest behaviour is?" replied, "No. What good is it?"

It is indeed a tragedy, as Mr Joyce says, that some unhappy children have to wait until they are committed to an approved school before they are given the most elementary instruction on the difference between right and wrong.

## CHRISTMAS DAY

THOUGH rude winds usher thee, sweet day,  
Though clouds thy face deform,  
Though Nature's grace is swept away  
Before thy sleety storm;  
Even in thy sombrest wintry vest,  
Of blessed days thou art most blest.

Nor frigid air nor gloomy morn  
Shall check our jubilee:  
Bright is the day when Christ was born,  
No sun need shine but He:  
Let roughest storms their coldest blow,  
With love of Him our hearts shall glow.

Inspired with high and holy thought,  
Fancy is on the wing:  
It seems as to mine ear it brought  
Those voices carolling—  
Voices through Heaven and Earth that ran,—  
"Glory to God, good-will to man!"

*Samuel Richards*

## A Woman of Bethlehem

AT this season the thoughts of Christian people all over the world are turned toward Bethlehem.

One feature of life in the little town which never fails to impress visitors is the headdress worn by married Christian women. It is a high headdress covered with a white flowing veil, pinned under the chin and falling over the shoulders and down the back. It is like the headdress worn by the princesses in fairy tales.

Many believe it is a relic of Crusader days when such high headdresses were the fashion, and it is thought that it was introduced into Palestine by the



women who followed their men to the Holy Land. Underneath the white veil the woman of Bethlehem wears a red fez, shaped like an inverted plant-pot, and held upright on the head by two cords which tie beneath the chin. On this hat she may carry her savings, stitching the gold or silver coins in rows around the fez.

This custom of using coins for decoration is quite common in Palestine and is the way a woman keeps possession of her private wealth; but the married Christian woman of Bethlehem wears something else that is unique and which carries us back to New Testament times. Under her veil, attached to two loops, one on each side of the bottom of the fez, she wears a chain chinstrap called a znekb. This is usually of silver, and from it hangs a pendant, but on each side of the pendant are five silver coins.

These are the "ten pieces of silver" in the parable of the Lost Coin, and are part of her marriage lines.

To lose one of these silver coins is for a Bethlehem woman as great a catastrophe as if Mother were to lose her wedding ring.



THIS ENGLAND

## HALCYON DAYS ARE HERE

NOT many people think of the kingfisher particularly at this time of the year; these are not the halcyon days when we expect to see a vivid flash of jewel-like colour, turquoise and red, dart across a stream. Yet these are the true halcyon days.

The seven days before and after the winter solstice (December 21) were believed by the ancients to be the period when the kingfisher—the Halcyon bird to them—brooded over her nest. According to fable, at this time the sea was always calm; hence the saying "halcyon days" to express a time of happiness and tranquillity. Dryden had the kingfisher in mind when he wrote of "Halcyons brooding on a winter's sea."

It is not surprising that such a beautiful bird should be the subject of many legends. Ancient Greek mythology tells how Ceyx, King of Thessaly, went on a voyage, leaving behind his wife Halcyone. A violent storm arose, the ship was wrecked, and Ceyx was drowned.

Halcyone worried over his long absence and counted the days till his promised return. At last the Immortals had compassion on her, and sent Morpheus

to tell her of her husband's fate. Whereupon Halcyone at once hurried to the seashore and found her husband's body floating on the waves. As a reward for her devotion she and her husband were changed into a pair of kingfishers who should remain faithful for evermore, always living by the water.

Another story, less familiar, says that the kingfisher was once grey, but that Noah let it out of the Ark to see if the waters were subsiding, and it took the opportunity of soaring into the sky. Thus it became coloured with Heaven's blue. Then it ventured too near the Sun and got its breast scorched red, and as it turned to fly from the heat its tail was also scorched. Because it ignored his instructions Noah was angry with the kingfisher and made him stay outside on the roof of the Ark—and that is how it learned to fish for its living.

## No Books For the Naughty

BOOKS and Christmas are closely linked in most people's minds, yet the earliest-known announcement of a Christmas Gift Book was made only 200 years ago—in the General Advertiser just before Christmas 1749.

This was the announcement which was to prove the forerunner of countless thousands: "Given gratis, by J. Newberry at the Bible and Sun, in St Paul's Churchyard, over against the North door (only paying one penny for the binding), Nurse Truelove's Christmas Box, or the Golden Plaything for Little Children, by which they may learn the letters as soon as they

can speak, and know how to behave so as to make everybody love them, adorned with thirty cuts."

John Newberry, who drew up this picturesque notice, was the first publisher of children's books. He addressed himself directly to the youngsters for whom he catered, and often gave small presents such as bells and pin-cushions to those who bought his books. On one occasion he announced some new volumes and invited "all his little friends who are good to call for them at the Bible and Sun in St Paul's Churchyard, but those who are naughty to have none." Other times, other ways!

## DUNDEE'S ANCIENT RECORDS

DUNDEE is likely to place on permanent exhibition some of the municipal records of the city, which date from the twelfth century. At present they are locked away in an iron safe, but the Historical Records Office has been asked to advise about preservative treatment prior to their being lodged in glass cases in the City Chambers.

Among these documents are the Charter granted by King

Robert the Bruce in 1327; a Papal Bull of Leo X, dated 1513; and the licence of the Hawff Burial Ground granted by Mary, Queen of Scots and bearing her signature. There are missives signed by James II and Charles II; and also General Monk's order for the demolition of the fortifications of Dundee.

Similar permanent exhibitions throughout this land of ours would attract much interest.

By the village green in the little North Hertfordshire hamlet of Westmill



## London's Bird Colonies

THIS is the silver jubilee year of the bird sanctuaries in London's parks. How, thanks to their establishment, a wonderfully varied bird life is now flourishing in the very heart of London is shown in the report of the Royal Committee on Bird Sanctuaries recently published by the Stationery Office.

Birds from the Arctic Circle and Africa have come to Town for a visit and two tufted ducks that settled on the lake in St James's Park, a few hundred yards away from busy Whitehall, were caught, ringed, and later found in Nova Zembla and Zarensk!

During 1946 and 1947 the different species that visited Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens numbered 73, and 22 species reared their young there within sound of the roar of the traffic. One evening the strange sight was seen of a tawny owl chasing a heron along the shore of Long Water.

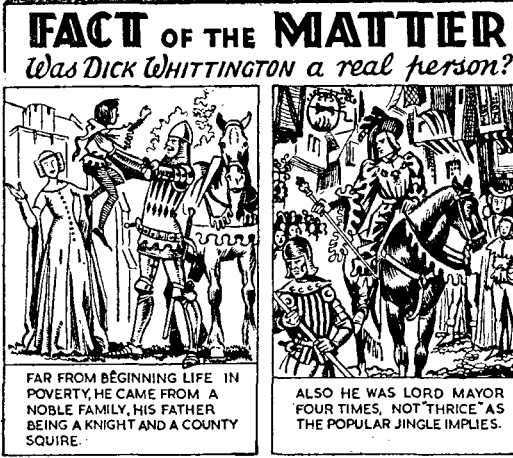
Tawny Owls, however, were not always allowed to disturb their bird neighbours' peace, and on another occasion two were seen being mobbed by other birds, and later a tawny owl was seen taking refuge between two large roots of a tree from the attacks of a mistle thrush!

Among other birds which have either visited the Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens sanctuaries, or turned Cockney and stayed there, are jays, jackdaws, bullfinches, greenfinches, linnets, flycatchers, goldcrests, tree-creepers, yellow wagtails, fieldfares, and redwings.

Visitors or residents, they are indeed welcome.

### DOLLAR BOOKS

UNDER a scheme devised by Unesco, students and scientists in Britain will shortly be able to buy books from hard currency areas by means of book tokens. The scheme, which is being run experimentally for a year, will be limited to 150,000 dollars to be shared between eleven member countries of Unesco. The book tokens will be paid for in national currency, Unesco providing the dollars.



## "Ladies in Green" in the Bush

THE war taught us to look for the Women's Voluntary Service wherever comfort was needed in dangerous places. Today they are still in the field, and far afield.

Latest news of the Ladies in Green comes from Tanganyika. In the mushroom hut-and-tent city of Kongwa, 260 miles from the capital, Dar-es-Salaam, four WVS members are helping the pioneers to build up the great ground-nut scheme. They are welcoming new arrivals by land, sea, and air, settling them in their primitive homes amid the red dust of the East African bush and helping them in a hundred-and-one ways.

Kongwa is only a year old, but it is already the second-biggest township in Tanganyika. Here is the centre from which our Government plans to secure limitless supplies of vegetable oils and fats to supplement our meagre rations. Here is African Pioneer City, 1948, uncannily like the American pioneer cities of 1848. True, the pioneers do not arrive by covered wagon, and they already have some "pre-fabs" and the promise of a school for the children, a hospital, and even a row of shops.

Life is hard in Kongwa. The Ladies in Green take that as a challenge. They have already started a nursery school, a gardens scheme, and other amenities to make life easier for the pioneer families.

### THE SAINT'S POND

THE Folkestone Town Council have decided to convert the Pond of St Eanswythe, at the Bayle, into a garden, in spite of protests by several members that such action would be vandalism.

St Eanswythe was a daughter of Eadbald, King of Kent 1300 years ago, and she built a nunnery at Folkestone, close to the pond which now bears her name. A legend tells how, seeing poor women carrying heavy pots of water up from a stream which ran into the sea, she diverted the flow of water so that it ran uphill into the pond.

## A SYMBOL OF THE CITY OF LONDON

THE Royal Exchange in the City of London, which was damaged during the war, has been re-opened to the public. Once more can we enter this splendid building which is a symbol of London's rise to commercial greatness.

A new sovereign is always proclaimed on the steps of the Royal Exchange.

That far-sighted Elizabethan, Sir Thomas Gresham, who built the first Royal Exchange at his own cost might be puzzled could he see how little the Royal Exchange is used as a business centre today; yet it has served its purpose grandly.

Sir Thomas built it because in his time the merchants of London had nowhere to meet to

transact their business and had to carry it on in the streets. His first princely bourse was opened by Queen Elizabeth in 1571 and named by her the Royal Exchange. It played a great part in making London the commercial centre of the world—a position previously occupied by Antwerp.

That building, however, was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. A new one was built, but this also was destroyed by fire in 1838. The great building's clock, which chimed tunes, played its last one, "There's nae luck about the house," then crashed into the street.

The third and present Royal Exchange has certainly been luckier, for it survived the blitz

that devastated so much around it. It has stood there since 1844, when it was opened with great pomp by Queen Victoria. It is an impressive building with a fine Corinthian portico leading to a pillared hall 100 yards long, the walls enriched by vivid paintings of historic scenes—pictures which are now being renovated.

The reason why the Royal Exchange has little place in the commercial life of London today is that the business of the City has grown so enormously that the different groups of merchants, the stockbrokers, shipbrokers, and so on, have established centres of their own elsewhere. Nevertheless, the Royal Exchange is still open for business for an hour each afternoon.

Sir Thomas Gresham is also remembered for his benefactions. He left not only the Royal Exchange, but his own house in the City, his almshouses, and other possessions to the City and to the Mercers' Company. He directed that from the rents of the Royal Exchange, and from other sources, seven lecturers were to be paid to read at his old house, on certain dates each year, papers on such subjects as divinity, music, and astronomy. He also left annuities to hospitals, refuges, and the relief of the poor.

The vane from his Royal Exchange, designed from his crest of a golden grasshopper, still stands in the hall, an emblem of London's great traditions.

## Hostels For the Homeless

NOT many tramps are seen on the roads of Britain nowadays, but there are still many young men who wander about the country, and because they have nowhere to live do not find settled work.

At Chilton Hall in Durham such wanderers are welcomed. Up to the present 1500 men under 25 have been re-equipped physically and morally at this hostel for a fresh start. Most of the men are unfortunates who have missed every form of help which the community normally provides—men who have lost heart in living.

Chilton Hall's big job is to

restore their self-respect, get them work, and find them the equipment for it. Each week the old boys of Chilton hear from the secretary of their association, and they often go back to visit the place which gave them a fresh start in life.

A similar good will venture is taking place at Elstree, where at Hill House Mr Thomas Cooper and the committee of the Oliver Borthwick Memorial are reclaiming much of the human wreckage which drifts about our country. There in fresh and beautiful surroundings groups of young men are being helped to become good citizens.

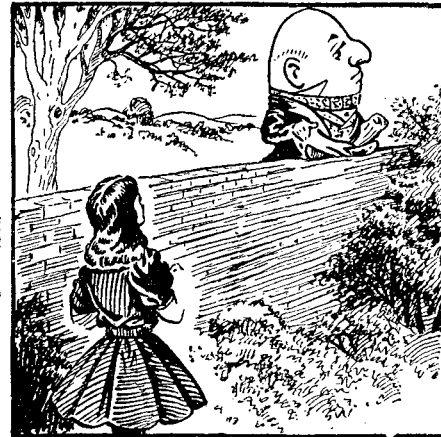
## THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS—Lewis Carroll's Delightful Fantasy, Told in Pictures



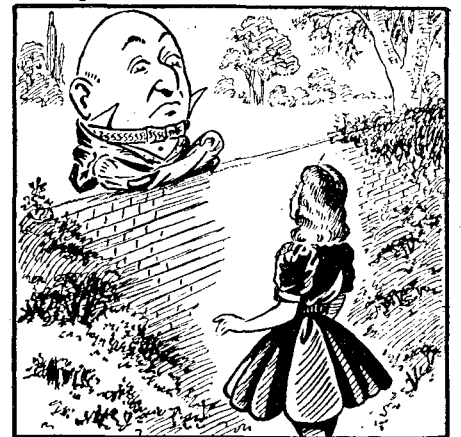
The Queen stopped screaming, pricked her finger, and smiled. "That's the way things happen here," she said. Alice suddenly felt very lonely, all by herself in this queer land, and two tears rolled down her cheeks. "Oh, don't go on like that!" cried the Queen, in despair. "Consider what a great girl you are. Consider what a long way you've come today. Consider anything, only don't cry!"



"Consider my age!" said the Queen. "I'm just one hundred and one, five months, and a day." Alice replied, "I can't believe that!" The Queen said: "Can't you? Try again; draw a long breath and shut your eyes!" Alice laughed: "One can't believe impossible things." The Queen went on: "You want practice. Why, I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast!"



Later, the Queen left Alice. After more strange adventures, Alice came upon a queer personage who she was sure must be Humpty Dumpty. She wondered how he kept his balance, and as he took not the least notice of her she thought he was a stuffed figure. "How exactly like an egg he is!" she said aloud. "It's very provoking," Humpty Dumpty remarked, "to be called an egg—very!"



"I said you looked like an egg, sir," Alice gently explained. "And some eggs are very pretty, you know." To which Humpty Dumpty retorted: "Some people have no more sense than a baby!" Then, looking at her for the first time, he demanded: "Tell me your name and your business." She replied, "My name is Alice, but—" Humpty Dumpty interrupted: "It's a stupid name. What does it mean?"

Alice Continues Her Interview With This Eccentric Gentleman Next Week



The Children's Newspaper, December 25, 1948

# The Heavenly Twins

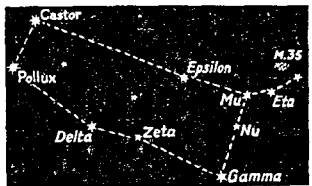
By the C N Astronomer

THE celestial Twins, Gemini, are now high in the south-east sky in mid-evening.

They are in a splendid region of stellar grandeur, with many objects of great interest, chief among them being the brilliant stars Castor and Pollux, the twin-brothers of Roman mythology and sons of Jupiter. According to early Greek mythology, which was largely derived from more ancient sources, these Twins alternately died, and on the death of one the other came to life, a process that symbolised Night and Day.

As a constellation, these Twins are represented as children, but armed—Pollux with a club and Castor with a bow and arrow. Pollux, the nearer, is a sun about twice the diameter of our Sun and about 2,025,000 times more distant, its light taking about 32 years to reach us.

Castor represents a marvellous solar system composed of four



The chief stars of Gemini

suns arranged as two pairs and two other far-distant bodies, the whole at a distance averaging about 2,658,000 times farther away than our Sun, so their light takes between 42 and 43 years to reach us.

Each pair of suns composing Castor average 7440 million miles apart, which is more than three times the distance that Neptune or Pluto is from our Sun. Each pair revolves in a vast orbit, once in 306 years, with a common centre of gravity between them. Now, while the four thus revolve in their major orbit, each pair revolves on its own. The brighter pair, which together radiate about 25 times more light than our Sun, are at an average distance apart of about 2,500,000 miles, and revolve in 9½ days, one sun being somewhat larger than ours while the other is smaller.

## Speedy Smaller Suns

The other pair radiate only about half the amount of light, and are smaller suns closer together, their distance apart averaging about 1,600,000 miles. They revolve at great speed in about three days.

The smaller sun of each pair revolves in a larger orbit than the other sun, each pair having a common centre of gravity.

Very far beyond the immense orbit of this great quartette of suns is yet another pair at a distance of some 100,000 million miles. They average about 1,600,000 miles apart and appear to be planetary in character.

These suns are very far advanced in solar evolution, with their fires dying down and heat radiation declining. So much is this the case that though calculated to be about half the diameter of our Sun yet they radiate only about one twenty-fifth the amount of light and heat. Thus they are evolving into worlds that will probably be greater than any planet of our Solar System. G. F. M.

# A MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE

IN every land Christmas brings customs which give delight to every girl and boy. In the British Empire stockings will be displayed by bed or fireside on Christmas Eve, for Santa Claus to fill to overflowing with presents and be well repaid by the laughter and joy of happy children; but, as the bells ring out on Christmas day, remember that the children of other lands have customs just as lovely.

Children in Belgium place large wooden shoes in the hearth for Santa Claus to fill with chocolates, toys, books, and fruit. Larger presents he places beside the shoes, just to show they came from him.

Should you ever be in Norway at Christmas time you would find the children engaged in a treasure hunt. There Santa Claus places his gifts in most unlikely places, and searching for them is the jolliest Christmas game the Norwegian children know.

Away in sunny Italy, as the bells give tidings of Christ's birth, the children stand round large cardboard urns placed in prominent positions before going to bed on Christmas Eve; each house has its cardboard urn gaily painted and decorated with flowers and trimmings, and one by one from youngest to oldest the children draw out their prizes just as other children often do from the branches of a Christmas tree.

Apart from personal presents, however, Christmas brings other lovely customs. Belgian children hang bunches of carrots beside their doors for the donkey of Santa Claus; they say it would be quite as ungrateful to forget the beast which brought their gifts as not to say "thank you" to Santa Claus himself.

In Norway Santa Claus is always accompanied on his journeys by flocks of birds; and so that these birds may also have their Christmas feast Norwegian

children hang tiny sheaves of corn on every chimney, and clap their hands delightedly as they watch the birds enjoying their feast.

Then what a lovely custom the people of Poland have! When the Christmas dinner is ready and the cloth about to be laid, a layer of hay is spread on the table beneath it. Plates and dishes sink into this bed of hay and remind young and old that the baby Jesus first saw the light in Bethlehem's stable from a bed of hay.

In parts of Czechoslovakia Father makes his way to the nearest plantation on Christmas Eve and cuts down a badujak, which is comparable to the old English Yule Log. Arriving home, he calls "Good evening and a happy Christmas," the reply being, "God grant it thee thou happy one rich in honour." The badujak is then placed on the fire.

On Christmas morn a person specially appointed calls at each home and when the door is opened exclaims "Christ is born" the family responding, "He is born in truth." The badujak is then stirred up, and as the sparks fly upward the visitor is saluted with "as many sparks, as many oxen, sheep, goats, and beehives—may thou possess—so much good fortune and happiness." Open house is kept at this season, and the festivities end on New Year's morning.

What lovely customs they all are!

## Fish Story With a Difference

AT Yarmouth recently the Scottish fisher folk, who form quite a community of their own, were faced by a problem. The Church of Scotland Institute there, which includes church, recreation quarters, social centre, and sick bay, was still undergoing repairs just when its accommodation was urgently needed.

Then a small private hotel was offered to the fishermen's kirk session to meet the emergency, but this, it was found, would cost £200. So an effort was made to raise the money by holding a sale of work.

Letters were sent to the skippers of over 200 fishing vessels asking for a box or herrings from each for the sale, and almost at once boxes of herring began to pour into the Institute. Appeals made to fishing ports on the east of Scotland met with a similar generous response and parcels of clothing, knitting, and produce came in by the score from all quarters. Everyone was glad to help.

The sale was a great success, everything being sold in the space of two hours, and a highly useful sum of over £900 being raised.

## BY BOTTLE POST

LAST summer two 13-year-old girls from Romford who went to Frinton-on-Sea with a party of Girl Covenanters, a Bible class, thought it would be fun to send a bottle message.

They wrote their names and addresses and the date on the message and asked the finder to write to them. Then they securely corked the message in the bottle and threw it into the sea.

Not long ago they received a letter from Germany containing their message and a letter in his own language from a German fisherman, Michel Wichers, de-

scribing how he had happened to find it.

He was at sea in his boat when a storm blew up and he was obliged to run for the nearest shelter. This happened to be the island of Heligoland which, since the war, has been destroyed and is deserted. On the shore of this smashed and lonely island he chanced to find the bottle. It had taken six weeks to reach this uninhabited rock in the North Sea.

Michel has three young children, and the two English girls have sent him a parcel of clothing for them.

THE SAFE REMEDY FOR 74 YEARS

for all coughs and colds

# OWBRIDGE'S

'O' for Owbridge's Lung Tonic. A teaspoonful each night guards against infection of throat and chest. Children love the honey in it.

GET A BOTTLE TO-DAY



## THANKS GIRLS AND BOYS

Wouldn't you like to think that you had earned the thanks of some boy or girl whose childhood is not as happy as your own. Some boy or girl whose parents are not as kind as yours? We are sure you would. The best way to help is by joining the League of Pity.

Wear this fine badge and show you are helping to do a great work. Every member who gives 10/- is entitled to it. Why not write to the Director and ask him to send you full details?



## Join the L.O.P

Junior Branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Victory House, Leicester Sq., London, W.C.2

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and with our Youth Organisations we are doing our utmost to build up our boys and girls for the place they must take later as responsible citizens. Will you please help us? We sorely need your aid. Address: The Rev. RONALD F. W. BOLLOM, Supt., THE EAST END MISSION (Founded 1885), 583x Commercial Road, Stepney, London, E.1.

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## CYCLE DYNAMO LIGHTING SET

for Christmas

PHILIPS ELECTRICAL LTD., CENTURY HOUSE, SHAFESBURY AVENUE, LONDON, W.C.2



## THE BRAN TUB

### SHE BUTTER!

THE class had received a lesson on architecture.  
"Now, Johnny," said the teacher, "can you tell me what a buttress is?"  
Johnny thought hard, then a light shone in his eyes.  
"Yes, teacher; a female goat."

### Christmas Child

A CHILD has been born on Christmas Day  
Is fair and wise and good and gay.

### CHRISTMAS BOX

THE term Christmas box originated in the early days of Christianity when boxes were placed in the churches for various charities. These were opened on Christmas Day and distributed by the priests the following day—Boxing Day. The money was called the "dole of the Christmas box" or the "Box money." Later on it became the custom for apprentices to carry a small box round to their master's customers for small gratuities, when

*Gladly the boy, with Christmas box in hand,  
Throughout the town his devious route pursues,  
And of his master's customers implores  
The yearly mite.*

### A Riddle in Verse

WHAT tree bears fruit when snow is on the ground?  
This is quite true, for I have often found  
All different kinds, yes, cherry, fig, and pear—  
A Christmas tree bears candied fruit each year!

### BEDTIME CORNER

#### JIMMIE'S RIDING LESSON

JIMMIE and his family were spending Christmas on his Uncle's farm. Jimmie loved the farm, and most of all he loved the horses. He had looked forward specially to his visit as his Uncle had promised to teach him how to ride.

Jimmie woke up on Christmas Eve and looked out of the window. A thick layer of snow! Poor Jimmie! He did not know whether to feel sorry for himself for missing his lesson or pleased because he could build a snowman.

He went downstairs, where Uncle was warming himself in front of the fire.

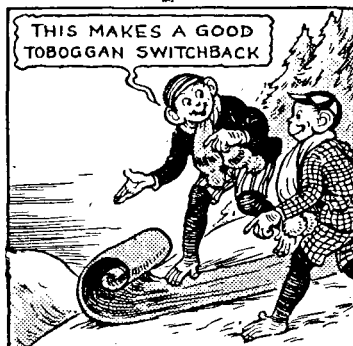
"Aha! I know what's wrong with you, young fellow," he smiled as he saw Jimmie's woeful face. "But you can ride any time, though it's not often you get snow. Come with me!"

Jimmie followed him into the drawing-room.

"If you can't have one sort of riding," chuckled his Uncle, "you can have another. I was going to ask Santa Claus to bring you this for Christmas—but I don't suppose a day will make any difference." And he lifted the cover from a beautiful toboggan!

So Jimmie had a riding lesson after all.

## Ups and Downs For Jacko and Chimp



The slope seemed just right for Jacko's new Christmas present.



Down they whizzed. But look out! There is someone right in their way!



No one was hurt, though, for as Jacko ungrammatically said, "It's no man."

### Other Worlds

IN the evening Uranus is in the south-east. In the morning Venus is low in the south-east and Saturn is in the south. The picture shows the Moon at 9.30 on Wednesday morning, December 22.



### A Party Riddle

ASK this of a friend:  
What games have no end?"  
I failed, I confess—  
Round games—did you guess?

### A CRACKING HINT

THERE may be more nuts about this Christmas, but, as usual, they will be rather difficult to crack cleanly. Here is a way to make them easy to break:

Put the nuts in a single layer on a dish and place them in the oven for about five minutes. This will extract the moisture from them and make them brittle and easy to break.

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Cabbage White. On the dusty ledge of the attic window, Ann found a large white butterfly.

"It's very still, perhaps it's asleep," she said to Don.  
"I think it's dead," replied her brother.

"Yes, it is quite dead, Ann," said Farmer Gray when shown the butterfly. "It is a female of the Large White, or Cabbage White as it is often called. These butterflies do not hibernate, but spend the winter in the chrysalis stage."

"How do you know it's a female?" demanded Don.

"By the black spot on each wing's upper surface," answered the farmer. "Females are spotted on both sides, the male has a spot on the under-surface only."

### CHRISTMAS FARE

A CRAZY old fellow named Wally  
Once rode round the town on a trolley.  
Delighting small boys,  
By creating a noise,  
And consuming large portions of holly.

### Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, December 22, to Tuesday, December 28

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Britain Calling Norway—a programme of carols, games, and Christmas customs of the two countries. 5.40 Godolphin and Latimer School Choir, Hammer-smith. North, 5.30 Christmas Toys. Scottish, 5.0 And Father Christmas Laughed—a play. 5.30 Crawfordton House Preparatory School Choir, Moniaive. Welsh, 5.0 Merry Christmas, Sam—a story; European Postbag. West, 5.0 A Lead Digger adventure.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Odds-Bobs-and-Mackerel—a story. 5.15 The Box of Delights (5). North, 5.0 Books Worth Reading. Welsh, 5.30 County High School for Girls Choir, Abergavenny.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Matilda Gives a Party; The Good Little Christmas Tree.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Christmas Days. 5.35 A Studio Party. Scottish, 5.35 A Christmas Day Party.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Wee Loppity—a story; The Legend of the Christmas Rose—a folk-tale; Studio String Players.

MONDAY, 5.0 On a Cattle Ranch (6). 5.15 Songs; Piano. 5.40 Making a Model Theatre. North, 5.0 Children v Parents Quiz; From Belle Vue Zoo. Scottish, 5.40 The Zoo Man.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Tim's Turkey—a story; Fabulous Beasts—a song cycle. 5.35 How to listen to Opera (2). N. Ireland, 5.0 Osbert (6); Nature Diary; Looking Backward and Forward—a talk; Duets. North, 5.0 Mole's Castle (6); Nomad. Scottish, 5.0 For the Youngest Listeners; Down at the Mains.

## HAIR-RAISING

HERE is a little trick which will actually make a friend's hair stand on end.

Heat in front of the fire a piece of paper, and when it is warm rub its surface with a clothes brush. Then hold it two or three inches above your friend's head.

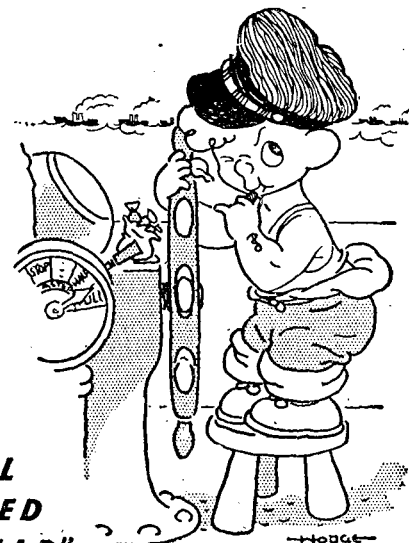
Very soon several of the hairs will be attracted to the paper and will stand on end. If you move the paper horizontally the up-right hairs will sway in unison.

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Enigma:  
Lead, lead

FOREWORD
RABBITER
ABEDTALE
DOVENLID
INRIMLEG
ANTLODGE
TYRETTIER
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REPULSED

## BRITAIN'S NEED IS SPEED!



"FULL  
SPEED  
AHEAD"

Sharps THE WORD FOR Toffee

EDWARD SHARP & SONS LTD. of Maidstone "THE TOFFEE SPECIALISTS"



natter

natter

natter..!

Talk, talk, talk. They're all the same. You know. First, she measures my left foot. Then my right. Then she says "There you are sonny—that's the pair you want—snug at the heel and instep with plenty of room for growing—right for length and breadth and girth. Now you see what the Clarks Footgauge is for!" "Pipe down on the sales talk," I said. "They feel good—that suits me." Well, maybe I didn't actually say it...



Clarks

children's shoes  
give a promise of healthy feet